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Sabbatia dodecandra, (L.) (*S. chloroides*, Pursh.,) was reported by Mr. E. M. Eadie from near Chelsea. It was found in the Autumn of 1887 growing abundantly on the salt meadow near Kreischerville.

Dr. N. L. Britton showed specimens of yellow gravel and kaolin and remarked upon a recent discovery of another exposure of the Cretaceous strata which are known to underlie a considerable portion of Southfield and Westfield. This new exposure is on the Fingerboard Road about a quarter of a mile east of Grassmere Station. A cutting in the north side of the road shows a section of glacial and modified drift, under which may be seen some of kaolin similar to that which is so extensively dug near Kreischerville. This is associated with a small amount of yellow gravel. He stated that it could not be positively determined whether the kaolin was exactly in place or had been ploughed up from below and enclosed in the moraine as at the Prince's Bay bluff, already described in the Proceedings, November 8th, 1884.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

NATURAL HISTORY AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.—Although the Paris Exposition has no special biological department, it cannot be said that biology is entirely unrepresented. The Woods' and Forests' Building, in the Gardens of the Trocadero, is composed of trunks and branches of trees native to or naturalized in France, all labelled with their botanical and French names, and the gallery around its interior has a collection of the seeds, leaves, resins, etc., of those trees, as well as of the fungi and insects injurious to them. Around this building are planted examples of native and introduced trees. The exhibit of the Transvaal Republic, in the Invalides Gardens, has a series of the eggs of many South African birds; the Argentine Republic, besides an extensive collection of woods, including many Legumenosæ and Rubicæ, *Zuglans Australis*, species of *Myrsine*, and large sections of *Cedrela brasiliensis*, has a set of fishes, reptiles, etc., preserved in alcohol, and Guatemala puts forward a fine collection of insects, and quite a number of birds. Most of the exhibits of the smaller and less important countries devote, in fact, a considerable space to their minerals, plants and animals, and this is true not only with regard to America, Australia and Africa,

but also, so far as regards minerals, of some European lands. The United States, important and extensive though it is, and varied though are its products, has nothing biological, and would have nothing mineral were it not for the enterprise of Dr. A. E. Foote, of Philadelphia, and of the exhibitor of the petrified trees of Arizona. Ethnography has not been neglected in the western or Industrial Arts wing, where Greeks are shown painting, pottery, Egyptians engaged in weaving and in agricultural work; and various semi-civilized or barbarous tribes occupied in their primitive methods of manufacture. Part of a hall in this wing of the main building is devoted to illustrations of the anthropology of criminality; and not far away from this a series of wax models, in a private exhibit, showing the effects of cutaneous and syphilitic diseases upon the person, is more pathological than pleasing or moral, but proves very attractive. As a parallel to the last-mentioned exhibit, the veterinary collection in one of the structures near the river may be noticed. Here also the monsters and malformations excite much more interest than anything normal. In the western gallery of the wing devoted to the Industrial or Liberal Arts is a miscellaneous geographical collection, which includes a rather extensive series of the results of the dredgings executed by the Travailleur and the Talisman in their various expeditions, together with the dredges used, and maps showing the course taken and the ocean depths. This collection contains many peculiar forms of fishes, including the renowned *Eurypharynx pelecanoides*, numerous crustaceans cirripeds, and pycnogonids, many echini, asteroids, crinoids and holothurians, and some gastropods lamellibra and brachiopods—all preserved in alcohol; also a dried collection of sponges and corals. Taken as a whole, the so-called "Liberal Arts" Department is the most unsatisfactory, most miscellaneous, and worst-arranged part of the entire Exposition. Perhaps, as time wears on, a catalogue may enable an enquiring visitor to see some order; but as it is, the various scholastic exhibits are an unexplained medley, and one is tempted to ask "Of what use are the few groups of historic, prehistoric and barbarous human beings, the meagre show of processes and results comprised under the head of 'Histoire de Travail,' and the very slim attempt at illustrating comparative anatomy, when within the bounds of the Exhibition itself—in the Trocadero Building—there is a first-rate ethnographical collection, and a splendid series of works illustrating French art

in all its phases? Would it not have been far better to have rounded out these collections with judicious additions, than to have made a separate, iusufficient exhibit?"

In a corner of the centre gallery of the Liberal Arts wing may be found a cast of *Phenaeodus primævus* Cope, exhibited by its discoverer. If *P. primævus* could think, it would, like the Doge of Genoa at Versailles, be more surprised "to see itself there" than at anything else.

The aquarium in the Trocadero Gardens is well-stocked with a lively crowd of Cyprinidæ and Salmonidæ, including California salmon, but it has no marine animals.—*W. N. L.*

A course of six lectures on human embryology has lately been completed at Cornell University by Prof. Charles Sedgwick Minot, of Harvard Medical School; intended to supplement the practical course in chick development, given a year ago by Associate Professor Gage (who is in Europe this Spring). These lectures presented clearly the history of the ovum, karyokenisis, the germ layers, and the formation of certain organs, especially the heart. The closing discourse, on Theories of Heredity, was given on Thursday, the 9th of May, before a large audience of professors, trustees, advanced students and physicians.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Annual Report for the Year 1888-9 of the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York.

Bell, A. G.—On Reading as a Means of Teaching Language to the Deaf. From the Author.

Boettger, Otto Von.—Über die Reptilien und Batrachier Transcaspiens. Separat Abdruck aus dem Zoologischer Anzeiger. No. 279. 1888.

Boulenger, G. A.—On the Chelydroid Chelonians of New Guinea.

—Description of a New Batrachian of the Genus *Eupemphix* from Trinidad. Extract from the Annals and Magazine of Nat. Hist. for April, 1889.